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Extension Service *Review*

A new chapter begins

M. L. WILSON, Director of Cooperative Extension Work

■ With the new year, 1946, a new chapter begins in the history of civilization, the atomic era. Not only was 1945 the year of victory for the democratic way of life, it was also the year of announcement to the world that leaders of science had peered behind the veil of the greatest source of power, atomic energy.

In recent months we have heard and read a great deal about atomic bombs and the atomic age. Much that has been written and said, no doubt, falls in the same category as the stories about George Stevenson's first railroad engine. There were tales that people would be blown to bits; that the countryside would be set on fire; that smoke would poison all cows and pigs and hens.

Have Confidence in Science

Thinking people today do not belittle the potential dangers from atomic power if mankind is foolish enough to use it for war. They are calm in their belief, however, that the dire consequences we hear about will not naturally follow so long as we place confidence in the men of science who developed it. Whether the atom will destroy us, or whether it will open a bright new future to mankind, depends to a considerable extent on whether mankind is willing to learn from, and apply in practice, all fields of science in the broadest sense.

An Educational Challenge

The Extension Service, like the entire field of education, therefore, is confronted by a new challenge. It is to help put science, each and every phase of science, to work for the common good. We in agriculture,

as every other field of human activity, have worked closely and intimately with the physical and biological sciences. In these sciences we have made tremendous progress. As the new chapter begins, it is vital that we make similar progress in the everyday application of the more intangible, but equally important, fields of the social sciences. In this way we can bring about and enter into a new age of reason, rather than one of new and greater destruction. Certainly, a service that has done as much as has the Extension Service in helping people to organize the use of science for the benefit of mankind, should not shrink in fear and trembling, every time the atom is mentioned, just because it was first used as an instrument of destruction.

As we begin 1946, we realize that practical use of atomic power for running cream separators and washing machines still lies quite a few years ahead. But in the meantime there is much to be done. The public has a right to look to its educational institutions, including cooperative extension work, for leadership in making science the servant, not the destroyer of mankind.

More Technology Not Less

We know now that the future holds for us more technology, not less. That more organization of human intelligence will be needed. That cooperation will be a greater virtue than ever before. So we see that extension work must continue to stress higher living standards through the demonstrated use of science. Extension work must make it a point to reach every segment of the rural population. Renewed efforts are

needed to cement cooperation and the spirit of fellowship and neighborliness. We need to work closer with, not shy away from, farm organizations and other cooperating groups in those of their activities directed to attainment of higher living standards and community welfare. Conservation of the soil is as important as ever, atomic energy notwithstanding. We must continue to emphasize development of policies through democratic means. We must recognize the place of youth and their part in shaping the future. We must use and apply as a yardstick to our own efforts scientific research methods in appraising methods and results used in extension work. We must constantly aim for professional improvement.

These are the things to keep in mind as we prepare our plans and programs for the coming year. In the Bankhead-Flannagan Act Congress has given recognition to the importance of cooperative extension work as an essential element of our present and future rural life. It has also given us a charter of assignments, covering, in a broad way, the activities along the lines I have mentioned.

Ten thousand cooperative extension workers are beginning a new chapter. It is the chapter dealing with an age of intensified use of technology on the one hand, and, we hope, an age of greater blessing and happiness throughout the world.

■ Canning peaches, 600 bushels of them, were delivered to 15 communities in Plymouth County, Conn., by cooperative buying from a wholesaler under the leadership of Dorcas Mason, home demonstration agent. Similar pooling of orders was successfully done for asparagus, 2,000 crates having been delivered by one Connecticut Valley grower.

Year of victory—1945

■ Looking back on 1945—the year of victory—let us draw up in informal fashion an outline of what extension workers did during the year. Of first importance was the job of helping farmers to maintain top production. As in previous war years, the filling of the farm manpower barrel with the needed number of workers was a problem of top urgency. That these manpower needs were met is shown in the following account of labor placements:

Farm Labor

One million more farm placements were made in 1945 than in 1944. Movement of labor to where it was needed was carried on with military precision.

Figures for the first 10 months of 1945 show that 5,725,726 placements were made as compared with 4,627,673 for the 10 months of the previous year. Placement of men seasonal workers increased from 2,663,921 for the first 10 months of 1944 to 4,800,867 for the first 10 months of 1945.

Placements of returned veterans as hired help, share croppers, and tenants rose from 513 placed in January of 1945 to 5,907 placed in October 1945, the total for the 10 months in 1945 being 24,155. These figures do not include men going back to their own farms or to the farms of relatives.

In the placement of men year-round workers the total for the first 10 months in 1945 was 153,872 as compared with 170,223 during the first 10 months of 1944. The total placement of women during the 10-month period in each year was 7,878 in 1944 and 9,555 in 1945.

The 1944 placement of women seasonal workers showed a decrease from 496,048 in the first 10 months of 1945 to 589,586 in the first 10 months of 1944. There were 1,039,873 youth seasonal workers placed in the first 10 months of 1945 as compared to 1,177,428 in the first 10 months of 1944. Total seasonal workers, men, women, and youth, placed in the first 10 months of 1945 totaled 5,544,788 compared to 4,430,955 for the first 10 months of 1944. Year-round placements of men, women, and youth for the first 10 months of 1945 totaled

180,938 as compared with 196,718 in the first 10 months of 1944.

In all its various aspects, efficiency on the farm and in the farm home was stressed by extension workers throughout the year: job instruction for emergency farm workers; farm machinery repair clinics; farm safety; fire prevention; the 8-point dairy program. All these helped to make possible the smooth functioning of the greatest agricultural enterprise in the world—America's 6 million farms.

Youth

The 4-H "Feed a Fighter" program helped galvanize the productive efforts of the 1,700,000 members of 4-H Clubs. At Chicago, in December, delegates to the National 4-H Club Congress took a quick look at their wartime accomplishments and then set their course postwarwise.

Cooperative Extension's efforts to serve all farm people were strengthened by the establishment, in a number of States, of State Extension rural youth committees. A majority of the States gave more emphasis to youth programs than in any previous year.

Veterans

By VE-day, Veterans' County Agricultural Advisory Committees had been established in practically all agricultural counties. These hard-headed but sympathetic committees have already proved of direct benefit to the veteran who is headed back to the land.

Legislative

Passage of the Bankhead-Flannagan Act, amending the extension section of the Bankhead-Jones Act of 1935, makes possible the further development of cooperative extension work, particularly county phases—agricultural, 4-H, home demonstration, and older rural youth.

Anti-inflation

Throughout the year Cooperative Extension continued its educational activities in the anti-inflation campaign. Land-appraisal clinics proved to be a highly useful teaching device in realistically looking at the earning power of the land from a long-time rather than a short-time view.

The OPA leaflet, *Protecting the Farmer's Dollars*, outlining the ceiling price program on equipment and other things farmers buy, was ordered in hundreds of thousands of copies by State Extension Services for redistribution to farmers.

Victory Gardens and Home Food Preservation

Victory gardens and home food-preservation programs drew heavily upon the time and energy of extension workers. Through press, radio, leaflets, and direct contact, city and townspeople, as well as those in the country, were given information on how and what to grow. In homes and in community canning centers billions of jars of fruits, vegetables, and other foods were put up. Nutrition's basic seven became a living reality in thousands of households. The city gardener understood better than ever some of the problems of the farmer—the battle against unfavorable weather, harmful insects, and the vagaries of growing things from seed planting to harvest.

Good Neighbors

The wide scope of Cooperative Extension's educational endeavors literally brings the world to the farm people of this country: Through their Extension Services farm people were given the facts on the Dumbarton Oaks proposals that led up to the San Francisco Conference; they had background information on the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that was established at Quebec; they knew about and some of them took direct part in the foreign student training program.

Extension workers aggressively helped to promote the purchase of war and Victory bonds in rural America. In the closing months of the year, documentary films from the Treasury Department in support of the Victory Loan Drive were being shown in rural communities throughout the Nation.

The fat salvage campaign in rural areas was also assigned to Extension. Used fats flowed from the farm kitchen to the war machine and after VJ-day to the reconversion machine in millions of pounds.

Thus ends 1945—a year of war work which culminated in the victory and brought us face to face with the new problems of peace.

Whither, rural youth?

■ With travel and time restrictions gone with the war, rural youth groups are being organized or revived at such a rapid rate that pre-war strength will soon be surpassed.

No freak development, the rapid re-conversion has been made possible through the persistent survey and study of organizational problems and programs of rural youth by Federal and State extension workers throughout the war years.

Extension rural youth committees, functioning in national, State, and county offices, have developed suggestions and recommendations the adoption of which has helped accelerate the activities now under way.

Some of the more significant recommendations generally adopted include the establishment of a State youth committee composed of representatives of all phases of extension work, designation of one person to have full responsibility for development or expansion of a youth program, and participation by youth in the development of their own programs.

Accompanying the resurgence of youth groups has been greater interest in expanding the organizations beyond community and county lines and increased emphasis on the responsibilities of youth in the local and world community.

State Federations Formed

Evidence of wider horizons is the strong trend toward organization of State youth councils or State federations of youth groups. During the last quarter of 1945, State councils or federations were formed in New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, and Connecticut.

As a hopeful witness of this development, Martin Annexstad, president of Minnesota's long-established State Rural Youth Council, suggests that a regional federation of State executive committees be considered as a future goal.

A trend giving promise of greater community progress in the near and far-distant future is the recognition and acceptance of civic responsibilities.

In New York, the new State organi-

zation pointed to the necessity of youth's assistance in developing future rural policy. In addition, the group agreed to take a hand in improving marketing, distribution, and use of farm products, nutrition, and rural health services.

The Young Farmers of New Hampshire, organized in November 1945, listed as one of their major objectives the acceptance of responsibility in community affairs, especially in more active participation in town and other government.

Similar concern for better civic administration was indicated by Minnesota's Rice County Rural Youth Group. Their plan of action was to tour their local courthouse to study the activities and duties of county officers.

Executive Group in Minnesota

And typical of the attitude of youth groups toward returning veterans and war workers is that of Minnesota's Rural Youth Executive Group. Believing, no doubt, that the preservation of peace begins at home, they are urging that one of the first activities by local groups in 1946 be the organization of a hospitality committee for returning veterans and war workers.

Encouragement of 4-H Club work is the objective of the Jasper County (Ind.) Rural Youth Group. In 1945 they offered an award to the best 4-H Club girl demonstrator in the county, and in 1946 will offer awards for both the best girl and best boy demonstrator.

Sponsorship of a summer evening school by Minnesota's Fillmore County group and publication of the Service Newsette for boys in the service by Ohio's Tuscarawas County group are other examples of civic or service activities.

Interest in Public Problems

Increasing interest in public problems is indicated by the selection of such study topics as reconversion problems, postwar agriculture, international cooperation, and culture and customs of other countries.

As for recreation, emphasis is still placed on the concept of re-creation,

and camps, picnics, hikes, hay rides, wiener roasts, folk dances, dramatics, kittenball, and other sports continue to be the order of the day.

A broadside view of current trends the country over seems to indicate that now in the bud and rapidly coming to flower in the thinking of youth groups is the realization that it is responsibilities assumed and fulfilled—even more than privileges enjoyed—that make democracy click.

It's tough to farm in city clothes

The Victory Clothing Collection is being made from January 7 to 31.

Henry J. Kaiser, national chairman of last spring's collection, is heading this collection for overseas relief. Local committees in some 7,800 communities throughout the Nation are endeavoring to collect 100 million serviceable used garments, and additional shoes and bedding.

Everything is needed—coats, suits, trousers, overalls, boots, and shoes tied securely together in pairs, work shirts, sweaters, skirts, and pajamas—anything wearable, household linens and quilts, too.

Overseas relief workers report that farmers are forced to do the work of their slaughtered draft animals, and are without shoes as they travel the rough, rubble-strewn roads and fields. Hundreds of thousands of them are dressed little better than the scarecrows in our fields. There is a desperate need for heavy shoes and warm clothing for farm families who till the "scorched earth" and landmined acres. There is also need for lightweight clothing for the Philippines—yard goods, summer clothing, shoes.

America's spring cleaning of 1945 was done in answer to the plea "What can you spare that they can wear?" It yielded clothing enough to share with 25 million of our ragged friends in 28 countries overseas. UNRRA and other relief agencies report that this is only a small percentage of the destitute, homeless and looted people who desperately need clothing. To help relieve them, our allies, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand have been conducting clothing collections, and President Truman has announced the need justifies another appeal to the people of the United States.

Young farmers accept community responsibility

■ The Young Farmers of New Hampshire recognized the need for more active participation in town and other government at their State-wide meeting in Laconia in November.

Hampshire agriculture in an intelligent and broad-minded way.

Programs for the coming year will be built around farm problems, but the larger national issues will not be

forgotten. Mutual problem clinics will take up specific things, meetings will be held on poor farms where concrete suggestions can be made for improvement, as well as on good farms.

It is hoped that the program can be broadened to include young women as well as young men. In some cases, this will be done with special meetings held at the same time the men meet, followed by a recreation hour; in others, general meetings will be held on rural health, better nutrition, education including better schools for the community, and recreational problems.

Better Training Practices

But through the whole program, the young farmers will not take their eyes from the main objective—better farming practices. The year's plan includes talks and demonstrations on better use of land, on new machinery, labor-saving devices, and cooperative undertakings.

The Young Farmers of the State accepted the challenge offered them by Director Henry Bailey Stevens when, in his address of welcome at the Laconia meeting, he said: "You are the young men who before many years will be carrying on New Hampshire agriculture. You will be the taxpayers deciding community policies and determining what rural life will be. The type and caliber of the population in the countryside depends on you."



Norman Whippen of the State Extension staff, who directs the New Hampshire Young Farmers Clubs, discusses plans with Irving Livingston, who farms 200 acres.

A special committee on community responsibility recommended studying town warrants, attendance at legislative and other hearings, and running for office, both town and State. Discussion groups where community problems could be considered were proposed. "We feel," the committee reported, "that the young farmer has a responsibility in community affairs. Unless he devotes some of his time to local organizations, the community will suffer. He should take leadership if he can possibly do it; but if he doesn't, his attitude alone will do much to influence the growth and development of local organizations."

Following two years of local and regional meetings during the war, the young farmers decided on a formal organization. Although the character of the organization is not yet determined, it is clear that they intend to approach the problems of New

Some of the young New Hampshire farmers who meet regularly to find ways of meeting their problems cooperatively and intelligently.



South Carolina develops egg markets

J. M. ELEAZER, Extension Information Specialist, South Carolina

■ Although South Carolina is not in a large commercial egg-producing area, it has had a perennial problem with its brief surplus of eggs each spring.

With no existing facilities for removing this surplus, as it grew along with general diversification and live-at-home programs on the farms, it grew more and more acute along through the years until eggs would hardly sell at all during the flush egg season.

All of this has vastly changed in recent years.

The carlot shipment of chickens that county agents started from the State about 20 years ago brought more confidence in chickens, and this accentuated the egg surplus. Combination movements of eggs and poultry, first by car and then by truck, from rural areas constituted the first commercial movement of the spring surplus of eggs.

State Needed Volume

But this proved far from adequate. It was felt that what the State needed was an established egg business here in our midst that would take all eggs that came at the market price. But it took volume to support any such outlet. The great increase in poultry incident to the present war gave us the volume that such a system needed to make it feasible. W. A. Tuten was employed as assistant extension marketing specialist in 1941 to help with marketing work, and especially egg and poultry marketing.

In the spring of 1942 Mr. Tuten took over this work and assisted in setting up three egg-grading stations, at Greenwood, Newberry, and Rock Hill, respectively. The Agricultural Marketing Administration came in to support the price; and 143,460 dozen eggs were marketed through this channel at an average price of 29.5 cents per dozen, all of which were on a wholesale graded basis.

In 1943 the Government was slow in announcing a support price program. As a result, the price of eggs went down as low as 20 cents per

dozen in some sections by February 1. Immediate relief was necessary, so Mr. Tuten organized a truck pick-up service and piloted several trucks to all parts of the State and picked up eggs that had been assembled by farm and home agents and egg dealers. A total of 536,857 dozen eggs were moved to a dehydration plant in North Carolina where they were processed for the armed forces. Forty counties participated in the movement of this surplus, at an average price of 32.5 cents per dozen.

Egg-Grading Schools Held

This arrangement offered nothing permanent, so Mr. Tuten conducted 16 egg-grading schools in various sections of the State and trained approximately 150 people to candle and grade eggs according to U. S. Department of Agriculture requirements for consumer grades. This step proved to be very much worth while and created quite a bit of interest among the various egg dealers in the State. As a result, we now have eight Federal-State grading stations operating.

In 1944, 1,109,167 dozen eggs were thus assembled in 36 counties of the State, and they averaged 33.5 cents during the usual cheap egg season. WFA was again ready to support the market last year but had to take very few, as the market for graded eggs stayed above the support price and producers did not have to take advantage of that protection.

Mr. Tuten feels that South Carolina has really got somewhere with its egg marketing since large-scale outlets have developed at points all over the State. We did not have this a few years ago. He attributes this progress to the standardization program that is being followed, which makes eggs a merchantable product. It includes proper candling, grading, packing, storing, and handling of the eggs.

Dixie-Home Stores have installed up-to-date grading equipment for rapid and large-scale handling of eggs at their headquarters in Greenville. Swift and Company are now

equipped to handle eggs at their plants in Spartanburg, Columbia, Greenville, Anderson, and Charleston. Armour has done likewise at Greenville. The Greenwood Cooperative is equipped to buy and store eggs in large volume.

All of these grading stations operate strictly on a Government graded basis and have licensed government egg graders that were trained by Mr. Tuten and are under his supervision. All eggs handled by these grading stations are candled, graded, and packed according to size and quality.

In addition to the above-mentioned facilities, Swift and Company's branch house at Spartanburg has installed a breaking room and a processing room. In the breaking room, all off-grade, small, soiled and cracked eggs are broken and quick-frozen. The processing room has equipment and facilities for treating the egg shells with hot oil which greatly increases their keeping quality.

So, all in all, South Carolina has passed another milestone on her way to diversified farming. For, as Director D. W. Watkins says: "Marketing is of prime importance, as we will not get far with a product until it can see its way to the consumer with adequate marketing arrangements. And we can't develop markets," he continues, "until there is some volume to support them. You have that inevitable gap there between small volume and adequate volume that makes marketing difficult. After we get over that bump and there is considerable volume, marketing becomes a more practical problem."

4-H Club works at conservation

The Lebanon Club in the Dolores soil-conservation district of Colorado won first prize on its booth at the 4-H achievement day. The club made 15 concrete turn-out boxes which it sold to farmers in the irrigation section. The chairman of the board of supervisors donated \$1,000 to the Dolores district for use in developing conservation with the 4-H Clubs. Next year 4-H Club members in that area will establish conservation practices on the land in connection with a calf-, pig-, or lamb-feeding project.

Can the community act to meet vital problems

One session of the West Virginia annual extension conference was given over to discussion of the conservation and development of the State's rural communities. County Agent W. N. McClung presented the subject with this thought-provoking list of problems:

■ Which one of us has not scheduled a meeting at some point in our county with the idea of "killing two birds with one stone" only to find that the meeting just didn't click?

The people either didn't attend, or the interest was half-hearted; whereas when we held two meetings at two adjacent points in the same area the results were much better. Later on perhaps we found that some national, religious, or other differences were responsible for our failure.

It is important that we find and recognize the factors which led to the establishment of a community when we set out to plan the extension program for our county.

If we do not do this, we shall probably find ourselves working against odds which will cause much of our effort to be almost or entirely lost.

Job of Teaching

We in extension work are vested with the job of teaching. It is obvious that we cannot do all the teaching ourselves. Our numbers are too few and the things to be taught too many. We must have help to get the teaching job done. Our best help in doing this teaching will be found among the people we are supposed to teach, namely, the farm people themselves. In spite of improved transportation, rural telephones, rural electrification, and the enlarged trading areas, we shall still find that much of our most effective teaching will be done by local folks—farm men and women, boys and girls, who are, by the very nature of their location, thrown in contact with each other at frequent intervals.

We may find that different communities have different hopes and ambitions for themselves and their families—different standards of life, if you please—with which they seem to be satisfied.

Shall we try to mold all communities to the same pattern, or shall we

study each community and start with it where it is and build from there?

The problem of creating a desire for things they do not now possess may be our first big job in many of the more backward West Virginia communities. Certainly the desire must come ahead of the joint action necessary for achievement.

It has been said that no community can rise above the average health level of the people living in it. Perhaps this will be the first problem.

Rural Areas Need Physicians

Dr. Chapman, speaking at the West Virginia Farm Women's Conference at Jackson's Mill last August brought out these facts:

(a) "Before the war there was only one physician per 1,700 people in rural West Virginia. At least one physician per 1,000 people is considered necessary. Only about one-half enough physicians."

(b) "Physicians congregate in larger centers of population leaving many rural communities with little or no medical service available."

(c) "If all the people had their teeth properly fixed, we would need four times as many dentists as we now have. Thousands of otherwise physically fit young men were turned down for military service because of bad teeth."

"Only three counties in West Virginia have the minimum number of dentists recommended."

(d) "Hospital facilities are far below the absolute minimum needed for reasonable care. There are 5,621 hospital beds in West Virginia for a little less than 2 million people, or about 3 beds per 1,000 people. Thirty-five counties have fewer beds than are recommended. One-half of our counties have no general hospital at all."

(e) "Local health departments are woefully understaffed or do not exist. We need 34 more full-time qualified

health officers. There are only 28 full-time health nurses. We need at least 360. We have 6 health centers. The minimum number needed is 34."

With the prospective farm income for West Virginia being what it is, will our people ever be able to pay for adequate medical care or must we have more health services at public expense?

Will this matter of the health of our farm people require community action?

There is much discussion about returning service men and war workers, and many people feel it will have a profound, if not revolutionary effect upon the rural community as we have known it. Will these returning members of the community be satisfied with conditions in the community as they left them? Or will they insist that something be done about the problems, and will they be willing to help bring these changes about?

Are the schools and churches meeting the needs of our farm people? Of the rural farm population, 3.9 percent had no schooling and 16.2 percent had less than fifth-grade education, according to 1940 census figures for West Virginia.

Shall we have further consolidation of schools into larger and larger units, or will our people still want the school to be the center of the community, for public meetings and other activities which once centered around it? With improved transportation, shall we find a more modest consolidation—two- and four-room schools—desirable?

Are Churches Losing Ground?

Our rural churches seem to be losing ground, by comparison, all the while. Will the rural church eventually become merely a place to hold Sunday school and find farm people driving to town for church services?

Will farm people have more time for recreation in the future than they have had in the past? Will they want much of their recreation to center in the community, or will they want to drive to town for the strictly commercial kind? Some students of community life have used the term "rural culture," in making reference to the activities which communities developed for themselves long before Extension and other outside influences ever appeared on the scene. Recrea-

tion of their own making was a part of this rural culture—square dances and hay rides are examples. Perhaps we should be wise to start with such forms of community recreation as we try to assist with the development of a satisfactory rural recreation program. But the big question for us is: Can a good recreation program be established for farm people without community action?

Group Action Needed

Can rural electrification, roads, and telephones be provided generally in the West Virginia farm community without group action? When they do come to a community, will they tend to change the boundaries of the community, thereby unsettling many organizations, and make much community effort go for naught; or can the necessary adjustments be made so that more of our people can benefit from the changes?

The 1940 census for West Virginia says that 89.4 percent of the farm homes had no running water; 89.8 percent had no bathrooms; 92.5 percent had no toilet in the house; and, although the census did not say so, we know that a high percentage of these homes were not "pretty."

Remodeling of Farm Homes

It is anticipated that many West Virginia farm families will install water and sanitary facilities in the next few years and that many farm homes will be remodeled.

Shall these improvements be made "hit-or-miss" fashion with each family working out its own plans, or can the services of a qualified specialist be had who can supply plans and specifications which will make for comfortable and convenient homes and which will also lend themselves to proper landscaping—homes which can be made pretty?

Can something be done to see that a good architectural plan is not ruined by a careless carpenter or contractor who says, "You don't want it that way," and the farm family thinks maybe he knows more than the architect who planned it?

Can this type of farm-housing program be carried out without community action?

All the problems mentioned so far as possible community problems have

been those which cost money. We know that the farm income of the average farm family is too low to do many of these things as they would like to have them done. The 1940 census says that the average cash income per farm in West Virginia was \$433. Not very many of the things we have mentioned can be had on an annual income of only \$433 per family.

Certainly we cannot ignore the economic side of farming as a community activity and expect to get very far with the community improvements which cost money.

Our soil resources must be conserved and developed if farm incomes are to be maintained or increased.

Increasing Farm Income

New types of farming and new crops have been brought to our attention as a promising means of increasing farm income in West Virginia.

I refer to such things as small fruits, cauliflower in Canaan Valley, and others with which you are familiar.

Are we safe in assuming, if such enterprises are developed, that they will bring many problems of production, harvesting, grading, and marketing which will require group action?

If these things, and many others which could increase farm incomes, are to become a reality, can they be accomplished without community action? In short, can we expect any material increase in the average farm income in West Virginia without group action?

We have probably all observed situations such as this: A farmer and his wife have done a splendid job of rearing a large family and building up a good farm and home with the help of the children. The children grow up and begin to scatter. One child wants to farm. He takes over the responsibility of operating and managing the farm—often on a share basis but without any definite eventual ownership plan. This goes on for years, with the soil, buildings, and herds increasing in value under his management.

By and by the parents die or drop out of the picture. A settlement with the other heirs becomes necessary, and differences of opinion and disputes arise as to values.

The final result is that the farm either is purchased by the operator at a much higher price than would have been the case when he started to operate it; or a "family row" ensues, and the estate is settled through sale, and the farm passes out of the family and into the hands of someone with no interest in the community.

We have few guideposts as to what would be a fair arrangement whereby the child who wants the farm could buy it when he starts to farm it and benefit by the increased value his efforts bring to it.

Is this a proper job for community action in the conservation and development of the West Virginia rural community?

Can it be done without conscious and concerted action?

We know that public opinion is the most powerful influence in our county and probably is in any democracy.

Shall we have need for a national "farmer opinion" in matters of national agricultural policies?

Can the economic adjustments in farming in the future, which will mean so much to the individual farmer's financial welfare and which need to be made very quickly, be made without a pretty good "national farmer opinion?"

Can this national opinion be arrived at without thorough discussions of policies at the community level?

Developing Local Leadership

Can a community develop its local leadership by any better method than by thorough discussions on matters of policy all the way from the community level to the national level?

Is this an important activity for community action?

These are but a few of the many things which, it seems to us, the farm people might best accomplish by combining their efforts at the community level.

It is our opinion that we, as extension workers, would be wise in planning our programs accordingly.

■ DIRECTOR ARTHUR L. DEERING of Maine has been named as a member of the Committee of Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations which met in Quebec the last half of October.

Fight against infantile paralysis

■ Infantile paralysis isn't choosy—farm children are just as susceptible to it as city children. That's why America's rural families have their own particular stake in the work of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, whose annual March of Dimes provides funds for skilled care and treatment of polio victims even in the remotest rural areas.

This year the March of Dimes will be conducted between January 14-31.

Once again, last year, poliomyelitis stalked our country. More than 13,000 cases were reported. Hardest hit were Tennessee, Utah, Illinois, Virginia, and New York. Epidemic struck at farm and city indiscriminately. The National Foundation disbursed more than \$1,000,000 in emergency aid to epidemic areas, in fulfillment of its pledge that "no victim shall go untreated for lack of funds, regardless of age, race, creed or color."

"The idea that infantile paralysis is a city disease is a widespread misconception," declared the National Foundation. "Its presence in rural communities at a fairly high attack rate is explained by the fact that country children seldom acquire early immunity to communicable diseases.

"Rural children have fewer contacts than city children. They are not as likely to come in contact with the poliomyelitis virus, over a period of years, and thus build up immunity. When an epidemic comes, fewer country children are likely to resist it."

Records of the National Foundation show hundreds of epidemics in rural areas—none more graphic than the serious epidemic of 1944 in North Carolina. Polio struck in thinly-populated Catawba County and swept through the Catawba River Valley like a brush fire.

Only a miracle of organization—"The Miracle of Hickory"—saved the situation. Children were transported to a temporary hospital erected in 3 days. Physicians, nurses, physical therapists were rushed to the area.

Behind that organization were the resources and experiences of the National Foundation, teamed with strong and willing men and women of the stricken countryside.

When polio hit Henderson County, Tenn., in the summer of 1945, the county chapters of the National Foundation transported patients from their homes to the nearest large hospital in Memphis, 70 miles or more away. Patients who required after-care were treated in their homes, if possible, or were taken to convalescent centers.

Cases often are reported in rural communities that have no hospitals, or none with proper facilities for the care of infantile paralysis. Today, such equipment as hot pack machines and wool and the services of skilled physical therapists are essential. Through the National Foundation rural patients can be brought to hospital centers, greatly increasing their chance of recovery.

Poliomyelitis is one of the most expensive diseases known to medicine. Not only must many victims of past epidemics receive continuing care, but each year's outbreaks add new names to the steadily growing list. Hospitalization for a single patient costs more than \$2,500 a year. Some cases require continuing care for several years. Few families can meet the cost of extended polio treatment.

Eight years ago, the late Franklin D. Roosevelt created the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis in fulfillment of a growing need for an organized fight against polio and a "General Staff" to direct that fight. Basil O'Connor, personal friend and former law partner of Mr. Roosevelt, has been the Foundation's president since its formation.

Before the National Foundation was launched, infantile paralysis was considered a "local affair." From the most isolated farm to the largest city, men, women, and children fought the disease with the inadequate resources then available.

Today a national network of local Foundation chapters stands ready to combat polio wherever it appears and

to provide continuing care of patients from former outbreaks. Each chapter, wherever it may be, has the total backing of the national organization.

Epidemic action and epidemic aid are the more obvious and dramatic aspects of the National Foundation's work. Everyone who has come through a polio epidemic knows this part of the organization's work. But there is another less spectacular and less familiar aspect: Science.

The Foundation, in its 8-year history, has appropriated \$7,673,113 for research and education. Under its grants, men of science in 41 universities, medical schools, and laboratories are seeking a preventive and possible cure for infantile paralysis.

Physicians, nurses, physical therapists, medical social workers and others are constantly being trained in modern methods of treating poliomyelitis and readjusting its victims to useful lives. A constant program of education is being carried on by means of booklets, leaflets, radio, movies, to bring the facts about polio to the families of America.

Home demonstration club holds its members

Although members of the Brady Home Demonstration Club realized last January that they couldn't continue to hold regular meetings, they refused to disband. Nearly every member has gone to work outside her own home, but the president and secretary told Eutha Olds, Pulaski County, Ark., home demonstration agent: "Please continue to keep our club on the roll and send us all the material."

Miss Olds says the group meant what it said. They have held some night meetings—enough to keep the club organized. In November they reported the club had invested \$375 in Victory bonds. The club owned 7 acres of land on which it has a clubhouse. This adjoins the school grounds. The money invested in bonds was from the sale of some of the acreage to the school district for the construction of additional buildings. The bonds will be used later to improve the clubhouse.

Now the members are beginning to return home. Miss Olds says they plan to start regular meetings soon.

First FM educational network

■ With ending of the war, all fields of education, including cooperative extension work, will have new tools with which to do a better job.

In radio alone there are a number of new opportunities which should make extension teaching easier and better. Among these is FM (frequency modulation) broadcasting. FM broadcasting is still in its infancy, about where radio broadcasting was in 1920. FCC (Federal Communications Commission) has not yet completed its hearings on the basis of which some important policy decisions will be made.

In the meanwhile, forward-looking educational institutions are busy planning their program with future developments in FM broadcasting in mind. Last summer, for instance, the

legislature of the State of Wisconsin passed a law providing for a State Radio Council, a board of 11 members, representing the State University (which includes the Agricultural College and State Extension Service), the State Department of Public Instruction, the teachers' colleges, the State Board of Vocational and Adult Education, and the State Department of Agriculture, together with the Governor. This council supervises the university-owned radio station, WHA, which identifies itself as "the oldest station in the Nation," and is also authorized to establish the educational FM broadcasting system. Funds were also authorized for the construction and operation of the initial units of the State FM educational system.

Recently the Wisconsin State Radio Council announced that applications have been filed with the FCC for a 10-kilowatt transmitter to serve the Milwaukee and eastern lake shore area in the State, also for a 3-kilowatt station to be located on the university campus at Madison. Plans are also under way for additional units at various points in the State so that, eventually, complete day and night coverage can be had throughout the State. The executive director of the council, H. B. McCarty, says that "all stations will operate noncommercially in the presentation of educational public service programs."

These steps in Wisconsin probably represent only the beginning of similar actions in many States. Although it may be some years before FM facilities are available for extension use in some areas, FM broadcasting is definitely here as another tool for extension workers to keep their eyes on.

She builds for the future



■ This picture and story of a valued leader of youth in Otero County, Colo., was contributed by County Agent E. G. Colette. For the past 10 years, Mrs. E. Herman Heatwole (right) has been leader of a 4-H clothing club with from 5 to 9 girls in each year's group. The girl at the sewing machine is a first-year girl, and the

one at the left has completed 5 years of 4-H Club work and is now a junior leader of a second-year clothing group.

Mrs. Heatwole has devoted some 2,340 hours of her time to help the young girls of her community become better homemakers. She takes her work as a leader seriously and is really

concerned when one of her members falls by the wayside and fails to complete her year's work. On the other hand, she has a feeling of pride and satisfaction when her club members do some outstanding work and are rewarded.

4-H health for better living

Ten members and two adult leaders from the Lyondale 4-H Club, Geary County, Kans., accompanied by one extension agent attended the American Royal Livestock Show in Kansas City as an award for being named first in the Kansas 4-H health for better living activity.

"We are highly pleased with the achievements of the 12 counties which entered the contest this first year," said Mary Elsie Border, assistant State 4-H Club leader.

"Some of the very constructive and interesting things that clubs throughout the State did in the interest of better health included rat-killing campaigns, water tests for club camps and communities, physical examinations and follow-ups for members, tests for tuberculosis, the showing of educational health films, and the giving of health demonstrations. One county bought a hospital bed for use in the community.



Have you read

SEAMAN A. KNAPP, SCHOOLMASTER OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE. *Joseph Cannon Bailey*. 307 pp. Columbia University Press, New York, N. Y., 1945.

■ Through the formative years of our democracy, each generation was blessed with outstanding individuals whose leadership went beyond the period of time in which they lived. Seaman A. Knapp was such a leader. He is regarded by many as the most influential protagonist of scientific agriculture during the years falling roughly between the signing of the Land-Grant College Act and the Smith-Lever Act in 1914. As one who placed great faith in getting things done through cooperation and through allaying the inborn suspicion of practical farmers by appealing to their common sense, Knapp would probably deny claim to such a high honor. It is certain, however, that his influence was dominant through the greater part of that historic period in United States agriculture; and, on numerous occasions, it proved decisive.

In the daily routine of cooperative extension work, most of us have fallen into the habit of thinking and speaking of Seaman Knapp as a kind of patron saint of cooperative extension work. It is true that Knapp made a lasting contribution to the teaching profession through his introduction of the demonstration method. But the mistake too many of us have frequently made is to attribute Knapp's leadership solely to his pioneering in demonstration work. Enough time has passed for a true evaluation of Knapp's contributions, not only as educator but as agricultural leader.

We find such an evaluation in Joseph Cannon Bailey's new book on Seaman A. Knapp. Dr. Bailey's book goes far beyond Knapp's leadership in extension work. It begins with Knapp's youth on a frontier farm in New York State, where the boy received the benefits of growing up in a large family of rugged, independent,

adventure-seeking Puritan forebears. For the first time we learn many previously unpublished personal details about Knapp, obtained from members of his family and from his letters and papers. These personal glimpses are combined with phases of Knapp's career such as his early education; the accident which forced him to give up teaching for a while and go farming in Iowa; his interest in promoting purebred livestock; his promotional genius, business activities, and leadership in agricultural journalism; his trips abroad to obtain improved seeds; and his USDA connections predating his cotton-boll weevil control program. Many other documented materials outlining personal philosophies and official actions help to introduce a far more influential Seaman Knapp than the secondary title—Schoolmaster of American Agriculture—implies. No previous literature on Seaman Knapp has quite succeeded in bringing together such a comprehensive set of details about Knapp, who stands out in this text as a truly great leader in agriculture.

Naturally, I recommend the reading of the book to every professional extension worker and to the staffs of our land-grant colleges. But I also hope that interest in the book will extend beyond the purely professional level. The book is so written that it will be interesting reading to many rural lay readers. It should also serve as an inspiration to students in our agricultural colleges, students of history, and all those who see in science and its practical application to farming the answer to the problem of finding a way toward insuring an ever-advancing standard of rural living.—*M. L. Wilson, Director of Cooperative Extension Work.*

IF THE PROSPECT PLEASES. *Ladd Haystead*, University of Oklahoma Press, 1945.

■ This book is one man's interpretation of the West and of the West's postwar opportunities. Only a westerner could have written it. The au-

thor pays tribute to the man who first launched him on an agricultural writer's career, County Agent J. E. Shinn of Spokane "who used to give a chore boy a great holiday once a month by taking the youngster on a day's tour of farms, the while the kindly agent taught the rudiments of agriculture which were later to help him make a living." The book pictures, in easily read style, the West's historic past; its breeziness; its opportunities and future for those, especially among veterans, who like the democratic and progressive way of life. Although the book makes certain assumptions with which some of us who are westerners don't agree, it offers an evening's entertaining reading.—*M. L. Wilson, Director of Cooperative Extension Work.*

4-H Clubs grow certified seed sweetpotatoes

Georgia 4-H Club members staged the State's first show of certified seed sweetpotatoes in connection with the State 4-H Club Congress in Atlanta. 4-H members from the 16 counties engaged in the sweetpotato demonstration project competed for two free trips to the sweetpotato areas of Louisiana and \$60 in cash awards.

Objective of the 4-H sweetpotato project is to demonstrate by practical application the way to produce high-quality, certified seed sweetpotatoes and plants. About 1 million plants were removed from the 51 hotbeds at bedding time, and it is estimated that 15,000 bushels of seed potatoes will be produced this year by the 54 4-H members participating in the project.

The 4-H member agrees to grow the sweetpotato plants in artificially heated hotbeds—either electric- or flue-heated—and to follow recommended cultural and handling practices to insure top quality. He also agrees to return to the sponsor for use in expanding the project twice the amount of the same grade seed potatoes he receives.

The potatoes were auctioned off in grade lots. Buyers from three of the larger chain store organizations operating in Atlanta participated in the auction. The contest was sponsored by the Extension Service in cooperation with a chain-store organization.

Books via post

■ Not unlike the well-known story of Mahomet and the mountain, the Department of Child Development and Family Relationships at Cornell College of Home Economics yearly brings its library to thousands of persons in New York State who are unable to obtain the volumes otherwise.

With the aid of the U. S. Post Office, a loan library of nearly 1,000 volumes is circulated to interested persons throughout the Empire State.

It all started back in the depression when a great many libraries were unable to add the new and specialized books on family relations subjects to their stacks. So a loan library of these volumes was established for the entire State. Any New York resident may borrow one or more of the books for 8 weeks, simply by paying the postage for shipping.

Best customers of the loan library

are the extension discussion groups and study clubs. These groups, organized by county extension officials at the request of local residents, receive assistance from extension specialists and staff of the Cornell Department of Child Development and Family Relationships.

The study clubs schedule 10 to 14 meetings a year to consider various age groups and their needs. The discussion groups take up special studies in child development or family relationships. Last year 24 New York counties organized 310 discussion groups and study clubs enrolling more than 5,000 persons.

The extension collection supplements the State traveling library in Albany and local libraries. Not only "life with father" but life with every other member of the family, plus practically every possible problem of family relationships are treated in

the collection of nearly 1,000 volumes.

Included in the extension loan library are several books written by members of the Cornell faculty: *Helping Children Learn*, by Ethel Waring and Marguerite Johnson; *It's a Wise Parent*, by Russel and Mollie Smart; *Management in Homes*, by Ella Cushman; *Feeding Babies and Their Families*, by Helen Monsch and Marguerite Harper; *Living Together in the Family*, by Lemo Dennis Rockwood, and *Pictures of Family Life*, by Dr. Rockwood. Another book by Dr. Rockwood and Mary Ford, *Youth, Marriage, and Parenthood*, came off the press last month.

Among the most-requested volumes in the collection are *The Parents' Manual*, by Anna Wolf; *Bonaró Overstreet's Brave Enough for Life*, and *Your Child's Development and Guidance*, by Lois Meek. Reflecting current trends, *Soldier to Civilian*, by George Pratt, and *From Many Lands*, by Louis Adamic, are also gaining popularity.

Broadcasting the results



■ C. W. Jackson, assistant extension editor (radio) in Texas, interviews Abe Young, center, and F. D. Roland, Negro county agricultural agent of

Harrison County, right, about Young's tree farm demonstration. Young has planted some 5,000 pine seedlings on an old worn-out Harrison County

farm as part of his forestry and soil conservation program. The trees are thriving and are protected from fire. Young follows the recommendations of Roland and receives much assistance from the Texas Forest Service in promoting his demonstration.

Jackson is in charge of the Texas Farm and Home Program which broadcasts each weekday morning from Texas A. and M. College. The program celebrated its seventeenth birthday November 8.

■ Sixteen members of the home demonstration clubs in Fremont County, Colo., got together recently at the high school cafeteria and packed 164 cans of food for shipment overseas to the hungry in war-torn countries, according to Lucille Nelson, home demonstration agent for Fremont and Custer Counties. The beets, carrots, corn, peaches, and apples were all donated.

Florence, Colo., women did their bit, nine women making 40 gallons of sauerkraut which they canned later.

The food that was preserved in those 2 days will soon be on its way to hungry peoples on the European continent. It is a symbol of what small groups can do to help other people in the world who are not as fortunate.



Flashes

FROM SCIENCE FRONTIERS

A few hints of what's in the offing as a result of scientific research in the U. S. Department of Agriculture that may be of interest to extension workers, as seen by Marion Julia Drown, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Cotton Tire Cords Can Take It

■ Research on tire-cord materials was started early in the war with the object of providing the armed forces with the most dependable tires that could be produced. The Southern Regional Research Laboratory of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry at New Orleans was one of the research groups working to improve cotton cord. To develop a cord that would be satisfactory for use with synthetic rubber, laboratory scientists first investigated what is known as low-gage cotton cord, which they believed would outwear and out-run the larger or high-gage cord that had been in use for many years. Then they selected certain commercially available varieties of cotton from which they believed better cord could be made. The first experimental tires were for trucks, made with 90 percent synthetic and 10 percent natural rubber. They were officially tested at the Army ordnance tire-testing grounds at San Antonio, Tex.

All tires tested satisfactory results, but those made with cord from improved varieties gave higher mileage and had better resistance to rocks and other obstacles than those of standard cotton cord. Tires made with cotton of the Stoneville variety were roughly 20 percent better than the standard cord; those of SXP cotton, 75 percent better; and those made from Wilds cotton, 132 percent better. These tests were made in 1943. Tests made in the summer and fall of 1944 showed that rayon and the improved cotton cord performed better in light-truck tires than standard cotton cord. In passenger car tests, in which no rayon cords were tested, both standard and improved cotton cords gave entirely satisfactory performance. With one recapping, both standard and improved cords ran a total of 68,000 miles and were still in good enough

condition for another recapping. Thus the standard as well as the improved cotton cord was shown to be entirely adequate for high-speed passenger-car driving.

How 2,4-D Kills Weeds

■ Ever since the weed-killing effect of 2,4-D was established, there has been speculation about how it does it. At first it was thought that the chemical, originally used as a plant-growth regulator, made the weeds "grow themselves to death." Experiments at the Plant Industry Station at Beltsville, Md., however, have shown that, on the contrary, the weeds stop growing after application of 2,4-D, and their roots and tops soon shrivel and die. The reason is that the plants' food reserves are depleted or burned up by the action of the chemical. Annual morning glory root reserves, for example, are depleted to almost nothing in 2 weeks after treatment, and the thick roots of dandelion become soft in about 3 weeks. Within 2 months the whole dandelion plant has disintegrated.

It may seem strange that a substance that was first used to stimulate production of roots and setting of fruit should also be a killer of plants. One explanation is that as a growth regulator 2,4-D is used in concentrations of only 5 to 10 parts per million, whereas for its lethal role the standard mixture contains 1,000 parts per million, or 0.1 percent.

Large-Scale Returns

■ Practical returns from research may be slow in materializing but a successful project can repay its cost a thousandfold or more. In addition, returns in improved human health and advancement of scientific knowledge may be incalculable. Five outstanding research projects that took

4 to 5 years of study at an annual cost for salaries and expenses of \$2,000 to \$16,000 to produce results are paying off in the millions every year, and these benefits will continue into the future, while the expense of the research is ended. These five accomplishments, described in the Research Achievement Sheet series of the ARA, were the research on cattle tick fever, the development of hog cholera serum, the discovery of phenothiazine to control internal parasites of livestock, the establishments of optimum conditions for incubating eggs, and the studies of trichinosis and establishment of methods of protecting men against it. Many of the other research accomplishments described in the Achievement Sheets, which now number 49, have been as beneficial to farmers and to the public as these five.

Better Vegetables for North and South

■ The first of a series of publications on the nine Bankhead-Jones regional laboratories came off the press in October. Breeding Better Vegetables for the South at the U. S. Regional Vegetable Breeding Laboratory, Miscellaneous Publication 578, describes the research program and results to date at the laboratory near Charleston, S. C. Work is being done on snap beans, cabbage, tomatoes, sweet corn, peas, carrots, lima beans, asparagus, and watermelon to find new varieties better adapted to conditions in the Southeastern States and more resistant to the prevalent diseases than present varieties. The wide use of such improved stock would increase yields and benefit consumers both in the region itself and in the States to the north, where the markets are supplied out of season from the Southeastern States.

The other Bankhead-Jones laboratories to be covered in this series of Miscellaneous Publications are: The Regional Pasture Research Laboratory, State College, Pa. (publication now in press); Soybean Laboratory, Urbana, Ill.; Swine Breeding Laboratory, Ames, Iowa; Western Sheep Breeding Laboratory, Dubois, Idaho; Animal Disease Research Laboratory, Auburn, Ala.; Salinity Laboratory, Riverside, Calif.; and the Plant, Soil, and Nutrition Laboratory, Ithaca, N. Y.

Among Ourselves



■ **CHARLES L. CHAMBERS**, agriculturist of the Federal Extension Service, died in Washington, D. C., November 24. Mr. Chambers had been with the Department of Agriculture for nearly 30 years.

A native of Birmingham, Ala., Mr. Chambers was graduated with a B. S. degree from the Alabama Polytechnic Institute in 1908. He was in charge of the agricultural department of the Louisiana Industrial Institute at Ruston, La., for 6 years, after which time he was livestock club specialist for the State of Oklahoma. Mr. Chambers first came to the Department of Agriculture in 1915 as agent in animal husbandry, and in 1917 came to the Extension Service as assistant in boys' club work in the Southern States. In 1923 he accompanied three club members from Montgomery County, Md., to the International Stock Show in England to judge livestock exhibits, and the boys won gold cups.

After working with the boys 4-H Clubs for many years, Mr. Chambers was director of field agents in the Southern States with headquarters at the Washington office for several years, and in recent years served as principal agriculturist in Director M. L. Wilson's office.

■ **MAJOR EARL HAAS**, district 4-H Club agent for Kent, Allegan, Ottawa, and Barry Counties, Mich., from January 1937 until he entered the service in 1941, was one of a group of American officers who conferred with Major General Sumi, chief of staff of southern Luzon forces, to demand their surrender within 9 days.

Major Haas and the other officers were lowered by ropes into a precipitous mountain valley to meet the Japanese envoys at the appointed place 22 miles from Manila. They maintained contact with headquarters by signaling with a battle flag. Major Haas was one of the three officers who carried firearms. The conference was held in a bamboo shelter built by the Japanese, and the party was served American C rations and Japanese tea.

■ **ROBERT W. MOORE**, Tennessee State supervisor of the extension farm labor program, was named assistant director in charge of county agent work. He succeeds H. S. Nichols who died October 22.

Mr. Moore has been closely associated with extension work since his graduation from the U-T College of Agriculture in 1915. As a large farm operator in Hardeman County he worked closely with the county agents and was a leader in agricultural development in that area. From 1935 to 1942 he was district supervisor for the Farm Security Administration in west Tennessee. Since that time he has had charge of the extension war emergency farm labor program. He still has his farming interests in Hardeman County, and practical experience in farming coupled with years of close association with extension work qualifies him for valuable service to the State as leader of county agent work, Dean Brehm stated.

■ **J. H. McLeod**, assistant director, has been appointed vice director of the Tennessee Extension Service.

He will have general administrative supervision over all agricultural extension activities under the director,

C. E. Brehm, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of extension, said in announcing the appointment.

Mr. McLeod has been associated with the Tennessee Extension Service since 1921, when he first joined the staff as swine specialist. In 1934 he became head of the farm management department and in 1936 was appointed assistant director in charge of specialist activities and program planning. Before coming to Tennessee he did extension work in Texas and Arkansas.

His work in agricultural economics and program planning has gained wide recognition, not only in Tennessee but throughout the South. Because of his long association with extension work and his broad knowledge of agricultural conditions in the State, he will be in position to render a wide service to farm people in his new capacity with the Extension Service, Dean Brehm said.

■ **RECOGNITION OF 25 YEARS' SERVICE** as 4-H Club leader in Chenango County, N. Y., came to Harry Case on November 27 when Mayor of Norwich, James W. Flanagan, recently proclaimed "Harry Case Day." Highlighting the event was a 4-H Anniversary Reception at the Norwich Club, sponsored by the banks and rural organizations in the county. Among the special guests paying tribute to Mr. Case were R. A. Turner, senior agriculturist, Federal Extension Service, and Albert Hoefer, State 4-H Club leader.

It is worthy of note that Harry Case has developed the largest number of achievement club winners of any county in the United States. Every national 4-H contest has included representative judging and demonstration teams from Chenango County.

In his official proclamation, Mayor Flanagan said, "Mr. Case has contributed much to Norwich and Chenango County during this quarter of a century of leadership. Some 10,000 rural youths have come under his influence in 4-H work and many of them are now among our finest rural leaders.

Carnival Christmas meeting is popular

■ For 15 years, county-wide

Christmas Idea Day has been an annual event in the Whatcom County (Wash.) Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs, when not only ideas for making Christmas gifts but a variety of ways to make this season an especially enjoyable one were exchanged. A unique plan was worked out last year that not only saved the home demonstration agent a lot of headaches but gave a day of special enjoyment and instruction to every one of the 117 women attending.

There were two big reasons for its success. It was planned beforehand to the last detail, and the motto was: "It can succeed only if you do your part."

In the meeting of the presidents of home demonstration clubs in September, plans were made for the Christmas meeting. These plans included a display by each club of home-made articles suitable for Christmas gifts. Nothing was to be included that could not be made because of lack of commercial materials. Directions for making any articles that could not be made without directions were to be sent to the county extension office 1 week in advance so that mimeographed copies could be prepared to give out.

Next, Isla Whitchurch, the assistant home demonstration agent, who was acting home demonstration agent at that time, sent a letter to each club with information about the noonday lunch. Each club attending was asked to bring a salad and main dish with a Christmas garnish, and a sugar-saving dessert accompanied by the recipe. One club was asked to make the coffee for the entire crowd. The meeting was held in the spacious YWCA club rooms, and the Y's dishes were used.

Miss Whitchurch got five women to give demonstrations for making Christmas gifts and before the meeting spent some time helping them to organize their demonstrations.

The big Christmas meeting was held at the beginning of November. The YWCA room was arranged in carnival style. Six booths were set up with

chairs round them for the six demonstrations. Display tables were arranged about the room. From 10:30 to 11:00 a. m., the women from the various clubs set up their displays and examined the others. Then the demonstrations began, all six at the same time. Women would gather round one, watch it until they had learned what they wanted to, and then proceed to the next one. As the same six were to be given again after lunch, the women did not try to see more than three during the morning.

The demonstrations included stenciling on cloth, splatter-printing Christmas cards, making Christmas centerpieces, wrapping gifts, and making purses and bags. Miss Whitchurch demonstrated making plaster-of-paris pins and plaques.

Three of the demonstrators found it necessary to repeat their demonstrations about twice during the morning session, though the demonstrations of Christmas cards, wrapping gifts, and making centerpieces were continuous, since one could learn by watching during any part. The women seem intrigued by the "carnival style" procedure.

Just before lunch, tables were arranged with all desserts in one group, salads in another, and main dishes together, making a really beautiful display. Many of the women were busy with pencil and paper writing down suggestions; in fact, all during the day they were taking notes. From 12:00 noon to 1:00 p. m. was spent in lunch and visiting; and then everyone pitched in to clean up, each washing her own dishes. After this, there was group singing of Christmas songs, and a 5-minute talk by the county home demonstration agent on "What makes a good gift." She suggested that the gift list should be checked by answering these questions: (1) Is it useful in any way? (2) Does it do what it is supposed to do? (3) Is it as attractive as a gift should be? (4) Is it priced to be suitable to both the giver and the receiver?

The demonstrations were then resumed. Those who had seen the demonstrations copied recipes and exam-

ined the displays. At 2:30 everyone helped clean up, and by 3:00 p. m. Christmas Idea Day was over.

Christmas Idea Day has become a tradition in Whatcom County. Each year the members have made a greater contribution, both in planning and in carrying out the plan.

Extension refresher courses for veterans

A "refresher" course for county agricultural agents—believed to be the first of its kind in the Nation—is in process in Texas. Fifteen students reported for the intensive 8 weeks' course. All are graduates in agriculture whose intention to go into county agent work had been interrupted by the war, and all are veterans of from 3 to 5 years' service with the armed forces.

The course is intended primarily for prospective agents who have been in military service and will bring them the latest information on the findings of agricultural research, marketing, and the status of the various governmental programs.

Instructors for the course are drawn from the Texas Extension Service headquarters staff. Research workers of the agricultural experiment station and members of the Texas A. and M. College will also take over instruction in several subjects.

Through arrangements made with the schools of agriculture and of graduate students, the prospective agents will receive credit toward graduate work for the time spent in the refresher course.

4-H Club camps

Approximately 3,760 club members and 300 leaders attended the county camps in New York State this year. This compares with 2,299 members and 200 leaders in the 1944 camps, according to Prof. J. A. Lennox.

Attendance ranged from 10 days to 2 weeks per camper in the 15 4-H camps which drew campers from 45 counties. Two new camps were started during the year. Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties bought a new camp site at Mountain View in Franklin County; and Montgomery, Herkimer, and Fulton Counties obtained a CCC camp at Speculator in Hamilton County and established a permanent camp.

We Study Our Job

Extension contacts through meetings

The average home demonstration agent holds nearly twice as many meetings as the county agricultural agent. Not only is there a difference in the total number of meetings held but there is a difference in emphasis on meetings among county extension workers. The patterns for use of meetings as extension devices by which the county extension agents carry on their work vary widely, according to their annual statistical reports. These patterns involved such factors as (1) number of meetings held, (2) attendance at meetings, (3) use of time on meetings by extension workers, and (4) trends in attendance at meetings and number of meetings.

(1) The average home demonstration agent has from 2 to 4 times as many method-demonstration meetings as the average county agricultural agent; but the agricultural agents hold 2 to 3 times as many general meetings as the home demonstration agents. The average number of leader-training meetings used by different types of county workers is approximately the same. The home demonstration agents report twice as many adult meetings with no extension worker present as the county agricultural agents. If this is considered a criterion of effectiveness of leadership training, meetings held by home agents are much more effective than those held by agricultural agents. The number of meetings is only a partial measure of agents' effectiveness.

(2) If we analyze the annual report data from the attendance point of view, county agricultural agents reach nearly one-half of their total attendance through general meetings while the home demonstration agents reach only one-fourth by this means. The home demonstration agent makes nearly twice as many contacts through method demonstration meetings as through general meetings. The attendance at the different types

of meetings appears to be larger with county agricultural agents than with home demonstration agents.

(3) The time required to put on a meeting also varies. It takes longer to establish result demonstrations and hold a meeting at them, than to gather material and prepare for and put on a method demonstration. Since general meetings consumed less time than other types and usually have larger attendance, they are an effective means of contacting large numbers of farm people, at relatively lower costs.

Meetings also play a large part in the 4-H Club program. In general, they follow the pattern for adult work as described above. The attendance is generally smaller. The number of meetings carried on without an extension worker present is relatively larger for both types of workers.

(4) The total attendance for all types of extension meetings reached its maximum in 1941. This was true for every type of extension meeting except for leader-training meetings. They reached their maximum in 1942. The general trend for the last few years, both for number and attendance at meetings, has been downward. What part the gasoline situation had to do with this tendency is hard to measure.

Massachusetts studies home demonstration organization

Some 800 Massachusetts homemakers living in 61 rural towns were interviewed in a study of home demonstration organization in six counties—Berkshire, Essex, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, and Plymouth Counties. The homemakers visited included women who had taken part in extension activities and some who had not participated, as well as 153 home demonstration leaders. About a fourth of the leaders were county advisory council members; over half were township committee members; and others were home-demonstration project leaders.

The survey was made in townships which had more than 25 percent rural population. The towns selected were classified according to the extent to which the extension organization had been developed for the local women. The towns were divided into "spots" having from 5 to 12 homes; every home in every twelfth spot was covered by interviewers. Massachusetts State and county extension workers cooperated with members of the Division of Field Studies and Training in making the interviews.

The general outlines of the study were suggested by the Massachusetts staff. The procedures were outlined at the Evaluation Workshop in Chicago last March, and the details were worked out in conferences of State and USDA extension staff members. Bureau of Agricultural Economics sampling experts were also consulted.

Those who participated believe the 800 records will yield valuable data to answer questions on home demonstration organization.

More information on this study will be given in a later issue of the REVIEW.

Family finances studied

Joint bank accounts and the proper way to set up dual ownership of land—these are the two points of business in which Kansas farm homemakers are most interested. This information comes from Gladys Myers, extension home management specialist, Kansas, who trained leaders in record keeping, money planning, and business transactions in 13 counties.

"The joint bank account," she explains, "is of particular advantage in case of death, allowing the money to be easily transferred without further procedure. Such a bank account can be shared by brother and sister, son and mother, father and daughter, as well as by husband and wife.

"Farm women are also deeply interested in how to set up dual ownership of land so that their legal interests are maintained. Kansas laws on descent of property and distribution of money are also studied."

The once-over

Reflecting the news of the month as we go to press

NATIONAL HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENTS' ASSOCIATION meeting held in Chicago, December 5-7, was attended by 94 delegates from 28 States. The association elected the following officers for the next year: President, Lois Rainwater, Wilson, N. C.; first vice president, Mrs. Louella M. Condon, Rockwell City, Iowa; second vice president, Florence Hester, Versailles, Ind.; and secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Margaret C. Shepard, 51 13th Avenue, Newark 3, N. J.; counselor for Central States, Mrs. Laura B. Willison, 142 North Broadway, Wichita, Kans.; Southern States, Katherine E. Staley, Lauderdale, Miss.; Western States, Carmen Johnson, Fort Collins, Colo.; Eastern States, Mabel Milhan, Danbury, Conn.; Newsletter editor, Charity B. Shank, Columbia, Mo. The names of the outstanding home agents who were given special recognition at the association banquet will be published in the February REVIEW.

DEVELOPING INDIVIDUAL FARM AND HOME PLANNING was given special attention at a session of the Agricultural Outlook Conference held December 3-7. Director Wilson presented the subject as a phase of the Bankhead-Flannagan legislation. The importance being attached to extension farm and home plans was emphasized in talks by R. G. Vick and Velma Beam, extension agents of Clay County, N. C. They told how they together use farm and home planning in their work through farm unit demonstrations. We hope to give a summary of their talks in an early issue of the REVIEW.

950 DELEGATES ATTENDED NATIONAL 4-H CLUB CONGRESS in Chicago, December 2-6. For the first time local 4-H Club leaders were among the delegates. They and 4-H Club members took part in the kickoff for the 10-point 4-H Club program. J. P. Schmidt, of Ohio State University, organized the 950 delegates into 15 discussion groups and then each group into huddles to discuss the 10 points—4 points one day, 3 another day, and 3 the next day. A most wonderful demonstration of youth sin-

cerity of purpose was given in their discussions for they talked in terms of not only their community, State, and Nation, but in terms of international problems.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS meeting in Chicago, December 5-8, elected the following officers for 1946: President, W. H. Sill, Parkersburg, W. Va.; vice president, H. M. Nichols, Webster City, Iowa; secretary-treasurer, C. C. Keller, Springfield, Mo.; executive committee, A. F. Macdougall, Concord, Mass.; regional directors—North Central Region, Cletus F. Murphy, Waseca, Minn.; Western Region—Stuart Stirling, Silver City, N. Mex.; Northeastern Region, Ben Morgan, Marlinton, W. Va.; and Southern Region, John Henry Logan, Clearwater, Fla. Names of county agents receiving distinguished service award certificates will be published in the February REVIEW.

RURAL HANDICRAFT SHORT COURSE designed especially for extension workers in the 13 southeastern States will be held between May 13 and June 1, 1946. This 3-week course will be conducted by Miss Lucy Morgan, Director of Penland School of Weaving, Penland, N. C. Courses

EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW

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Lester A. Schlup, *Chief*

CLARA L. BAILEY, *Editor*
DOROTHY L. BIGELOW, *Associate Editor*
GERTRUDE L. POWER, *Art Editor*

EXTENSION SERVICE
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in hand weaving, chair seating, metalwork, pottery and clay modeling, furniture upholstery, furniture refinishing, rug making, leatherwork, basketry, lamp shade making, and similar crafts will be offered.

ESTES P. TAYLOR, editor of the Agricultural Leaders' Digest, and secretary of the American Agricultural Editors' Association, passed away on November 23 in Chicago. A former county agent in Colorado, horticultural extension specialist in Idaho, director of extension work in Arizona, and editor of the Digest for almost 25 years, Mr. Taylor was well known, respected, and loved by extension workers throughout the country.

EXTENSION WORK IN ITALY is getting a good start, according to the accounts of Capt. James F. Keim, now working to reestablish Italian agriculture and carrying on the methods he used as 4-H Club leader in Pennsylvania. Captain Keim has written of his difficulties and his success from time to time in The Pennsylvania Farmer. The latest installment is on his efforts in getting a shipment of livestock from the Island of Sardinia to the mainland.

PROFITABLE POULTRY PRODUCTION is the name of the first sound motion picture produced by Missouri and now being widely used by agents. It runs 30 minutes and is in natural color with most of the scenes on Missouri farms.

A COUNTY AGENT RETIRING after 11 years of service in Barry County, Mo., drew the following tribute from his local newspaper: "Mr. McConnel has worked successfully and most agreeably with the farmers of this county in building for a better and more profitable agriculture. He is a real dirt farmer himself and has understood in a very definite way the problems of the farmers. During his years of service for and with our farmers he has had the satisfaction of seeing the soil-improvement and dairy-improvement programs succeed in a way that is rapidly transforming Barry County into one of the leading dairying and livestock-producing counties of the entire State."